

17 December 2025

Edward Mountain MSP
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA
Tel 01620 827827

Dear Mr Mountain

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025

Many thanks for your letter to our Chief Executive which she has asked me to respond to.

East Lothian Council is supportive of a legal framework which aims to simplify the current complex regulatory landscape in Environmental Protection.

The Council also welcomes the addition of 'new activities' such as sewage sludge and anaerobic digestion activities. These are areas of potential local authority involvement where the activity has given rise to nuisance/ public health issues. Investigations can be more challenging due to current 'grey areas' in the legislation and so a clearer enforcement pathway would be welcomed.

Given that there is the potential for significant changes to current enforcement practices and expectations, East Lothian Council would like to request that the consultation time in relation to the Regulations is extended and that the Scottish Government consults further with Local Authorities, particularly Environmental Health teams, to gain a deeper understanding of the legal requirements and their impacts.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Rodgers
Head of Communities and Partnerships